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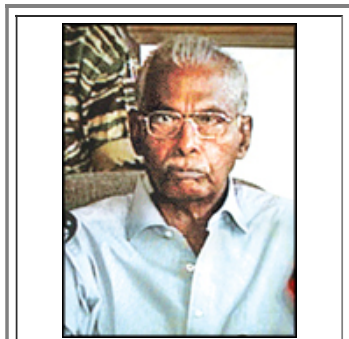
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GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

Daya Master, George surrender

Rafik JALALDEEN



George

George, is a former postmaster in the Postal Department Known to be one of the most senior LTTE cadre. A language translator of the outfit Was once the English translator to Thamiselvam, former LTTE "political head".

Former LTTE media spokesman Daya Master and late Tamil Chelvam's interpreter George surrendered to troops in Puthumathalan yesterday afternoon, Military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said. "Daya Master and George surrendered along with fleeing civilians from the NFZ. We expect more senior LTTE cadres to surrender to troops," he added.

The Government firmly believes that LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran and his associates are hiding in the No Fire Zone in the remaining eight km stretch in the NFZ, he said.

Briefing the media yesterday on the current security situation at the Media Centre for National Security, Defence spokesman Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said the world was able to witness footage of civilians being rescued on Monday from the NFZ contradicting LTTE propaganda that the civilians were not coming on their will.



Daya Master

Velayudam Thayanidhi alias Daya Master, was born on March 3, 1956 Is a former private English tutor. Later joined the terrorists outfit and is known to be one of the most senior member of the LTTE.

Was the head of the LTTE media and propaganda machinery for years until he was sacked from his position.

Was kept under house arrest by the LTTE leader for revealing intelligence information of the outfit.

"All could see through the UAV visuals how the civilians were eager to reach cleared areas. This is obvious that the LTTE forced civilians to stay, to use them as a human shield," he added.

Minister Rambukwella said the International Community has sufficient proof to recognise the LTTE's nature and its unmerciful acts of terrorism and realise the Government's stance towards the people.

Comments and suggestions to : Web Editor

"This is a biggest hostage rescue operation ever embarked by any country," he remarked.

He said troops entered the NFZ on Monday and captured one third of the NFZ yesterday which was demarcated by the government and later infiltrated by the LTTE cadres. "Troops are continuing the hostage rescue mission to liberate the remaining trapped civilians. Security Forces captured one third of the NFZ and are moving towards the south by filtering civilians from those areas and to liberate the entire leaving no civilian kept hostage by the Tigers," he added.

Responding to a question on the whereabouts of the LTTE leader, Minister Rambukwella said We strongly believe that Prabhakaran and his associates are hiding in the remaining eight km stretch to be liberated in the NFZ.

"The Government had given time to the most notorious terrorists to surrender within 12 hours but they did not respond. Therefore, they will have to face their destiny."

He said essential food items and medicine to the NFZ have been dispatched by the Essential Services Commission with the assistance of the Navy and ICRC.

Asked about the remaining number of trapped civilians in the NFZ, Rambukwella said it was not the time to count the number but to rescue civilians.

"We can't always be accurate with arithmetic and we are concerned about the figures. Our target is to filter and rescue civilians," he pointed out.

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